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Justice

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union  
(ILGWU)

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10-21-1921

## Justice (Vol. 3, Iss. 43)

International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU)

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### Keywords

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, ILGWU, labor unions, clothing workers, textile workers, garment workers, garment industry, New York, United States

### Comments

*Justice* was the official publication of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union ILGWU from 1919 to 1995. Editions of *Justice* were published in English, Italian, Spanish, and Yiddish. When compared side by side, the content of some of these different editions of *Justice* shows significant differences. This is the English-language edition of *Justice*.

"My righteousness I hold fast, and will not let it go."  
—Job. 27.6

# JUSTICE

"Workers of the world unite! You have nothing to lose but your chains."

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION

Vol. III. No. 43.

New York, Friday, October 21, 1921

Price, 2 Cents

## PHILADELPHIA INJUNCTION FIGHT AROUSSES GREAT INTEREST

UNION TO PUT 400 WITNESSES ON THE STAND

The eighth week of the strike in Philadelphia finds the center of interest in this conflict shifted from the picket line and the meeting hall to the courtroom. We have in mind the injunction proceedings started against the Union by two struck firms, Liechtenstein and Reichlin and the Veska Manufacturing Company, in addition to a suit for a general injunction asked for by the Waist and Dress Manufacturers' Association of Philadelphia.

After several preliminary hearings about two weeks ago, two more days were consumed last week before Judge Finletter by the employers in

putting in their "evidence" of the strikers' violence, on the ground of which they demanded the injunction. It would seem, however, that the court might not render a decision upon the application of the two individual firms but will reserve opinion until the suit for a general injunction, started by the Association, comes up for a hearing.

Next week comes the Union's inning. The officers of the Waist and Dressmakers' Union of Philadelphia have served notice, through Mr. William A. Gray, their indefatigable counsel, that they intend to put on the stand about four hundred wit-

nesses to lay bare the inincerity, and flimsiness of the charges of the employers and to disclose before the court the entire story of brutality of the hired strong-arm men employed by the bosses, and the endless persecutions to which the pickets were subjected by the police and all other authorities who seem to have lined up on the side of the employers in this strike of the girl workers of Philadelphia. It is almost certain that no decision will be rendered in the injunction proceedings before two or three weeks and meanwhile, of course, the strike will be kept up by the Union to its fullest extent.

When asked his opinion concerning the latest phases of the strike, President Schlesinger said:

"The Philadelphia strike bosses have so far not found a single strikebreaker among the thousands of men and women who have gone down eight weeks ago in strike to defend themselves against the arbitrary actions of the employers. The few colored strikebreakers which they have found have given them no end of trouble and cannot take the place of the expert workers.

"It is a source of pride to all connected with our International Union that not one of these men and women have deserted our ranks and returned to work, except, of course, those whose employers have settled with the Union. The strike will continue and will be supported by the entire International until we win a clean-cut victory."

## Cleveland Joint Board To Confer With Cloak Ass'n

President Schlesinger Will Attend Conference on October 24

As reported in JUSTICE two weeks ago, the Cloakmakers' Union of Cleveland has made a request upon the Cloak Manufacturers' Association of that city to meet it in conference to discuss several new points which the Union proposes to embody in the trade agreement that is to be shortly renewed.

Last week the Cleveland Joint

Board received a reply to this request.

The Association in a letter stated that it is ready to confer with the Union as it intends to present to the Union some new demands of its own. The conference, accordingly, was agreed upon for Monday, October 24.

President Schlesinger of the International is leaving for Cleveland next Sunday, October 23, to attend the conference with the Association.

## Cloakmakers' Joint Board Donates \$1,000 To Socialist Campaign Fund

On Saturday last, the meeting of the Joint Board of the Cloakmakers' Union has voted, in accordance with a previous decision to support the campaign of the Socialist party, to give \$1,000 to its campaign fund. This motion was adopted upon the recommendation of the Finance Committee of the Joint Board.

The special campaign committee elected by the Joint Board a week ago to help in the Socialist campaign, on

which all locals of the Joint Board are represented, reported that it met last Tuesday and began at once to do campaign work and devise plans for raising additional money for campaign needs.

General Manager Israel Feinberg of the Joint Board was elected chairman of the Cloakmakers' Campaign Committee and Brother Louis Langer, secretary of the Joint Board, will act as secretary of this committee.

## N.Y. Custom Dressmakers Give Half Day For Russian Famine Sufferers

The Custom Dressmakers' Union, Local No. 90, decided that their members donate the half day for the famine sufferers of Russia during the week of October 17-22. This decision puts the workers of Local No. 90 in line with the members of all the other locals of the International in New York City who have given concrete evidence of their readiness to come to the aid of the stricken population of Soviet Russia.

According to Brother I. Bernadsky, the manager of the Union, the Custom Dressmakers have done their

duty in a commendable manner without the slightest outside pressure. The chairladies of the various shops are now requested to bring the money earned by the workers for the relief of Russia to the office of the Union. From Local No. 90 the money will be transferred to the treasurer elected by the Russian Relief Committee of the International.

Meanwhile, the money collected must be brought without delay to the office of the Custom Dressmakers' Union at 725 Lexington Avenue, New York City.

## One Week Left To Unity House Concert

With only one more week left, the Emmy Destinn concert at Carnegie Hall, the Unity House Committee is very optimistic as to results.

In response to a letter from the Committee, most of the locals of the International have responded and have taken boxes or seats. The locals which have responded favorably are, Local 1, 10, 20, 22, 23, 25, 60, 62, 66, 82, 89 and 90. It is hoped that the other local executive boards will decide to take their quota of tickets.

Besides our own organization, the executive board of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers' Union and of the Women's Trade Union League have taken tickets.

The evening of Friday, October 28th, will truly be a re-union of friends of Unity House—and their number runs into thousands. That fact was demonstrated last winter when the hazzar netted the Committee about six thousand dollars. It is hoped that the same spirit of enthusiasm will prevail now.

Remember the time, Friday evening, October 28th; the place, Carnegie Hall; the occasion, the first song recital of Emmy Destinn, the concert to be given for the benefit of our own Workers' Unity House.

## Greater New York Russian Relief Committee of International Locals Will Meet Next Monday, October 24

General Secretary Baroff has summoned all the members of the General Relief Committee of the International locals in Greater New York to a meeting at the General Office, 51 Union Square, on Monday next, October 24, at 2 P. M.

It will be recalled that the first big conference of all New York locals which voted for a half-day relief fund for the Russian sufferers had set October 1 as the final collection day in every shop, trade and local. A number of developments have since taken place which interfered considerably with the faithful carrying out of this decision and which have greatly hindered collections in the shops.

Principal among these hindrances were, of course, the unprecedented slack conditions and the unforeseen idleness which have affected practically every trade in our lines, including the cloak and suit industry. September and October, which ordinarily are the busiest months of the fall season, have turned out to be two of the dullest months of the year. It is easy to imagine how this situation has affected the Russian famine collections in the shops.

Nevertheless, a considerable amount of money has already been collected and turned over to the local treasuries from where they are to be transferred to the general treasurer of the Relief Committee. Another important point which must be definitely decided upon at this meeting is the method of transmission of relief, and supplies to Russia.

These problems, which will come up for a decision at the meeting next Monday, make it highly incumbent upon every one of the members of this body to attend without fail. The drive has, to all purposes, come to an end. A balance to the activities of the committee must be drawn and its work properly consummated.

## WORKERS' UNIVERSITY WILL OPEN NOVEMBER 18

On Friday evening, November 18, the opening exercises of the Workers' University of our International will take place at the Auditorium of the Washington Irving High School, Irving Place and 16th Street.

Upon this occasion there will be given by the Educational Department a splendid concert followed by a number of prominent speakers. Details will be announced later.

# TOPICS OF THE WEEK

By MAX D. DANISH

## WILL THE RAILROAD STRIKE BE ADVERTED?

**T**HE strike on the railroads has been ordered for a week from today.

The press reads like the eve of mobilization before a great war. Thousands of army trucks, they say, are to be pressed into service; hundreds if not thousands of aeroplanes will be used for hauling food into famished cities; soldiers will be manning the mail trains; the railway executives boast that they will mobilize every unemployed—what kind heart!—and give them a blacking job on the truck lines and, perhaps, solve thereby the problem of unemployment. And what is most encouraging—the "Millionaire's Suburban Special"—the same that was manned by bankers and suburbanite brokers during the last trouble on the railways near New York—has again made its appearance on the front pages of the Law and Order press with the cheerful promise that, strike or no strike, Wall Street will not be depleted of its daily supply of sharks from the nearby towns.

Can the great conflict still be averted?

The prospects today are scanty, indeed. There are two ways by which the strike can still be held back: Either the Railway Executives retract their last demand, filed with the Railroad Board, for an additional ten-per cent cut in wages, which they brazenly promise will be followed up by a number of similar demands, and live up to the working regulations provided in the national agreements; or the Government take over the railroads, rod, hook and sinker,—something which the Government will eventually have to do, as Chief Stone of the Engineers correctly remarked.

We doubt that either of these courses will be pursued. Instead, it looks to us, like a "showdown" fight which the Railway Executives under the leadership of General Atterbury have been acting for in the belief that this is the right moment for a decisive battle for the "open shop" and the breakdown of Union labor in the United States. Have they been campaigning for over two years from one end of the country to the other in vain?

After the railroads will come the building trades, then the other essential industries until the miners will be reached by next spring, and "wage readjustments," favorable to Atterbury, Gary, Schwab and the rest of our industrial "captains" are forced through. Meanwhile, the stage for the battle rally is being set and "public opinion," as reflected in the stimulus of manufacturers' news and editorials in the general press, is being industriously forged against the railway workers.

There is only one discouraging feature about this propaganda. Try as hard as they may, we are afraid, the Railway Executives cannot involve the damn "furnurers" in this "un-American" strike. The names of the men's leaders—Stone, Lee, Carter, Sheppard—sound all so disgustingly Jewish-in-the-wool native that it is difficult to give them a wild-eyed and disbelieved-hair appearance let alone adorn them with fatal whiskers.

Could anyone step forward and help out the poor railway? At any rate, now that Lusk has been safely silver-chested away, would not Archie Stevenson assist?

## 20,000 UNEMPLOYED MARCH IN LONDON

**E**NGLAND'S unemployment crisis was responsible for notable demonstrations last week in London, Sheffield and Manchester. More than 20,000 unemployed participated in the London demonstrations, which lasted from mid-afternoon until after dark and passed off with only a few windows broken and some window smashing.

The demonstrators were prevented from invading Whitehall, but a demonstration consisting of five men and one woman was passed through the police lines and admitted to Premier Lloyd George's official residence, but the Premier had "gone out" and two of his secretaries received the demonstration.

In Sheffield 10,000 unemployed assembled and adopted resolutions demanding increasing allowances from the State. In Manchester several thousands assembled at the Town Hall and sang revolutionary songs while a demonstration waited on the Lord Mayor. In close relation with these demonstrations, Parliament has assembled in special session this week to take up almost entirely the unemployment problem and seek a solution to it.

This item of news would not be complete unless supplemented by the following pertinent summary:

We, too, have a few million of unemployed in this country,—anywhere from four millions—a figure which the Harding-Unemployed Conference finally adopted after having tossed up a coin—and six million as its Department of Labor statistic says it is. Our unemployed are a bawling lot and do not march,—partly because it inevitably invites clubbing by the police, riding down by the mounted constabulary and similar virile treatment. Our unemployed get no State allowances and do not even dream of any.

We had an unemployment conference in Washington for a few days—and while it lasted it was a log in our complacent eye and a thorn in our side. Now that it passed out of existence we have a sigh of relief, for heaven only knows what it would have recommended if it lasted a while longer. As it is, it came out in its post-mortem cry with a recommendation for the repeal of the Eight Hour law, with admonitions to labor not to fight against wage cuts and with similar cheering propensities.

Isn't it nice and paradise-like to live in a creditor country?

## GERMAN REPARATIONS AND SILESIA

**M**OST honest folk have long given up trying to understand how the League of Nations tribunal, the Council of Ambassadors and whatever other agency there exists for the enforcement of the Versailles Treaty and for the collection of the colossal German indemnities, can reconcile the theory of throttling Germany economically and industrially and at the same time collecting at regular intervals billions of gold marks from her.

What has taken place in the last few weeks certainly does not lend clarity to this huge puzzle. Take for instance, the following incidents: A week ago the press heralded with obvious satisfaction the fact that France and Germany have entered into a special agreement whereby Germany will pay to France the equivalent of 7,000,000,000 gold marks in the next five years in materials that will go for the rebuilding of the devastated

regions in France. This understanding, we were told, indicated the starting of an era of better relations and a feeling of confidence between Germany and her conqueror and, perhaps, the beginning of the end of the Period of Hate that all but submerged the European continent in the last few years.

Comes now the decision of the "special committee" of the League of Nations on Upper Silesia and mocks this entire arrangement into a satanic jest. The decision gives practically all of the minerals and industry of Upper Silesia to Poland, or shall we rather say to the French who control Poland financially, politically and economically head, foot and dragons, and leaves the rest of the world guessing how Germany will pay France that 7,000,000,000 worth of gold marks in materials if most of her coal, copper, sink and iron ore is to be taken away from her.

The immediate outcome of this "partitioning of Silesia" is already evident to the rest of the world in the catastrophic fall of the mark, the inevitable crashing of the Wirth cabinet, the strengthening of the monarchist elements in Germany and throughout Central Europe and the further postponement of any hope for better days on the continent.

## WHO GETS THE OTHER THIRTY-NINE CENTS?

**A**MONG our own domestic puzzles we have added one that might be of interest to our readers in these days when from near

and far "altruistic citizens" and "friends of the worker" are engaged in the problem of finding out the real "alnger in the woodpile" responsible for the High Cost of Living that still faithfully abides with us.

There it is. A delegation of Chicago aldermen visited California recently to investigate the cost of food staples at the source of their production. In a statement which they issued upon their return they cited as an example that a pound of prunes for which the California producer receives 6 cents retails in Chicago at 45 cents, a staggering illustration of the wide gap between price to producer and consumer.

Who gets the other thirty-nine cents? We are willing to allow a penny or two for railway charges. Let us put down another cent for storage until such time as the prune emerges from the fields of California upon her proverbial resting place at the boarding house table. Somewhere "between California and Chicago," and let us add for ourselves—"and New York," die buried these thirty-nine cents per pound, buried deeply in the fathomless pockets of "honest business men," the swarm of middlemen, agents, retailers, brokers, warehousemen and other gentlemen of the great highways of the nation.

Who gets the other thirty-nine cents anyway?

# NEWS IN LOCAL 50

By HARRY GREENBERG, Manager

I want to acquaint our members with a number of important matters which came up in our local since our last report.

First, as to the present prevailing conditions in our trade. To my sorrow, I must state that the conditions in our trade are very bad; there is very little work and a large percentage of our members are idle. The manufacturers in our industry are trying their utmost to take advantage of these conditions in various ways, such as laying off workers, unequal distribution of work, discriminating against the active members of our union, and, in some instances, manufacturers, as well as contractors, attempted to reduce the wages of their workers. In all these instances up to the present time, we succeeded in adjusting all the complaints to the full satisfaction of our workers.

It is evident that the employers are determined to take advantage of this slack period, and it is therefore necessary for our members and for the organization as a whole, to be on the watch and be ready for any emergency that we may be confronted with. In connection with this, the next important question of our organization is the election of officers, Executive Board members and members for the control committee which will take place on Thursday Evening, October 20th, 1921 at the Members' Meetings in New York, at Casino Hall, at 85 East 4th Street, in Brooklyn, at Royal Palace, at 16 Manhattan Avenue, and in Brownsville in our office, at 1703 Pitkin Avenue.

## To Launch Organizing Campaign

It is important that all our members participate in this coming election and elect the most competent and best fitted members for the Executive Board and other offices, for it will be up to the incoming Executive Board, in conjunction with the officers of the union, to work out plans for the future work of our organization. The conditions under which we are working today are such that necessitate the full attention and

sincerity of the incoming Executive Board. In order that we may be able to meet the critical conditions which we are likely to be confronted with in the near future we must have the full support of our membership. After election, we will immediately start an organization campaign in New York, Brooklyn and Brownsville. There are a number of non-union shops where the conditions are intolerable, the working hours are between 48 and 50 per week and in some instances as much as 64 hours. The earnings of the workers in these non-union shops are averaging \$5.00 to \$12.00 per week and due to these conditions they are in a position to compete with our union shops, putting our members out of work. In order that we may abolish all that, we must try to organize the workers in these non-union shops and get for them the same working conditions as we have in the union shops.

## The Forming of a Joint Board of Locals 41 and 50

In order that the above locals may successfully accomplish the tremendous task which is before them, we have decided to form a Joint Board of these two trades. By doing so we expect to be in a position to save quite a sum of money and have one officer to attend to the shops of both locals in the same section instead of having two as heretofore, and also to solve the problem of organization work which is equally important to both locals.

It is understood that in order to be successful in our work, we must have the co-operation of all locals 41 and 60. The cutters must become a party to this joint board, for the decisions that will be made by the joint board will affect the cutters as well as the other workers. As yet the cutters did not join, but we feel that with the assistance of the International we will have them with us soon and the work will commence to the full satisfaction of our members.

# West Virginia Mine Leaders on Trial for "Insurrection"

By J. CHARLES LAUE

"The War" as the West Virginia miners call the fighting between their forces and the mine guards from July 20 to Sept. 3 on the Boone-Logan county border (the coal operators and state officials prefer the term "insurrection") had all the reactions of a war of nations.

The hatred between the classes is so general that there is hardly a neutral person in the State and the miners, it must be acknowledged, also have many influential friends since they are all citizens and have a potential political strength. It was this observation after four days reconnoitering in the war zone that led Senator William K. Kenyon, chairman of the Senate investigating committee to remark: "There are no neutral witnesses in this state." The public hearings when these are resumed at Washington within a few days will bear this out.

Every wild story was believed, each side made the most of the situation by circulating atrocity stories, both swear revenge for the injuries of the past and as soon as the first opportunity offers itself it is expected that the war will break out anew. In fact the coal operators are openly anxious for another test of arms. The army of Sheriff Don Chafin, of Logan, has extensive trenches on the Spruce ridge and this is the von Hindenburg line over which the operators say: "The union shall not pass." The miners have secreted their best high powered rifles in the hollows and machine guns are hidden in the depths of some of the mines near the border, it is rumored.

So closely are the lines drawn in Mine, McDowell, Boone and Kanawha counties that in all recent trials, with one exception, despite the jury law which permits the drawing of talesmen from other counties than that in which the indictment was brought, it is difficult to get an unbiased panel and the miners have frequently been able to get a disagreement in cases that seemed to be particularly unfavorable to them at the outset.

Only in Logan county where the list is drawn by Don Chafin, the uncrowned king of the Guyan, can a coal operators' jury be obtained with certainty, willing to convict anyone that is suspected of having helped the mine workers. And even there in the case of the jury hung by the jury who happened to have been a union sympathizer, without the sheriff's agents having been aware of it.

The legal campaign of the coal operators now is to send away on long prison terms and possibly for life, C. Frank Keeney, president of District 17, United Mine Workers of America; Fred Mooney, secretary of the miners' organization and W. H. Bissard, said to have been the general of the miners forces that invaded Don Chafin's country. They will thus have removed the ablest young leaders the miners have developed. Keeney and Mooney are already under indictment in Logan county charged with having fomented the "insurrection" and are therefore assumed to be responsible for all loss of life that occurred in the uprising.

They have already been in the Mingo county jail at Williamson for over a month held without bail on another indictment charging them with murder.

As indicated by the first testimony they presented to the Senate committee the operators propose to show that the United Mine Workers purchased rifles in lots of 1,500 to arm the 9,000 men that marched from Lens creek to Madison, a distance of over 50 miles with full complement of equipment and railroad rolling stock; that union passes were used to give men safe conduct through the marching army, with the union seal affixed; that Red Cross and medical units were established and that food supplies were commandeered and payment guaranteed by the union.

Some general order supposed to have been issued from the district headquarters at Charleston was given which told the miners in four organized counties to march, and preparations were made providing for a court martial for maligners and cowards who refused to fight to free Mingo and in at least one instance a man was executed because he tried to desert before the battle of Blair, the operators claim.

The miners defense will rest upon the premise that the uprising was popular in nature and uncontrollable, was inspired by resentment at frequent murders committed by Baldwin-Felts agents in Mingo county, by gunmen authorized to act as deputy sheriffs by Don Chafin and by unwarranted attacks on the miners by militia and state police brought into the Mingo fields under the martial law proclamation of the governor.

Most of the 500 indictments obtained from the Logan county grand jury by the coal operators are against union miners who are supposed to

have been members of the invading army and since entire locals joined, and in some instances penalties were inflicted by the unions on miners who would not fight to save the Mingo strikers it was easy for the coal operators to get an indictment from their own jury against any union man whose name they might procure and this was simple since the union and non union coal operators have the common bond that unites all employers. Practically all these indictments are based upon the killing of John Gore, a noted gunman of the Chafin army who was killed on Spruce ridge. Gore, by the way, is the only man the operators officially admit having lost.

A brief review of the guerrilla warfare along a 55-mile front that culminated in a battle on Blair mountain at which casualties conservatively placed at about 20 dead and 50 wounded were reported makes clear the rapidity with which the miners army moved and the seriousness of the situation when federal troops arrived and disarmed the miners. The coal operators were panic-stricken for they saw coming a repetition of what had occurred in Russia when the masses lost faith in a czarist regime.

"The War" which lasted 13 days, began with an unsubstantiated report.

And the rumor started in this way. On August 12, a party of state militia men, young and untried boys, came tearing down the street in the town of Sharples and in riding down Main street one had killed his horse by running into an automobile and was himself badly hurt.

His comrades proceeded to abuse the driver of the car, a miner, and asked him if he belonged to the union. When he said "Yes," they

(Continued on Page 7)

## Bro. Lefkovits Replies

Editor of Justice,  
Dear Friend:

In the last issue of JUSTICE there appeared a communication from Albert Kaltoff, a former member of Local No. 3, in which he takes issue with my report as published in JUSTICE of Sept. 20th, also criticizing Local No. 3 in general and myself in particular.

I have no objection to criticism, but I believe that the person who takes the liberty to criticize someone else must himself be above reproach. I will take up each contention in the letter and answer to it:

1st—He claims that I am lamenting the fact that the members do not show any interest in the conduct of the Union and that I do not try to discover the proper cause. Here he mistakes facts, as I explained the non-participation of the members in the conduct of the Union by the fact that formerly, when they belonged to Local No. 80, they had to transact all their business at their local and executive meetings. At present, however, they seem to be satisfied with the conduct of their business by the Joint Board.

2nd—He criticizes the local for its composition, objecting to the fact that it is divided into three branches: ladies tailors, sample makers and Italian members. These branches were organized because there was a demand for them from the members of each trade, claiming that they are satisfied to have one joint executive board composed of representatives of each branch, but that when it comes to pass upon the actions of the executive board and when it is necessary to take up the peculiarities of the different trade interests, they want to have a branch meeting at

which to discuss these questions. The Italian members must have their branch in order that they also might be able to take part in the affairs of the organization, and they cannot meet with the Jewish members at large, do not understand the Jewish language, and many of them do not understand English. They must therefore have a branch at which they can discuss matters in their own language.

Recently the question of amalgamation of the two Jewish branches was taken up, but the sample makers and cloak tailors refused to give up their branches.

Our local is not the only one which has branches. All the large locals of the Joint Board have sections or branches in order to give more members a chance to take part in the affairs of their organization.

3rd—He objects to my announcement that a member who is 29 weeks in arrears is automatically dropped from membership by the International Union. If he were a Union man and believed in obligations and duties toward the organization, and not only in irresponsible criticism, he would be more glad with this information and would not object to it because that is a rule enacted by the convention of the International. Since when has an individual member of a union, or for that matter, of any other well-ordered organization, the right to decide for himself and to ignore the decision of the majority of his organization, and still claim to be a member of that organization?

The facts in this case are as follows:

Local No. 3, before the amalgamation with the ladies tailors, was composed of sample makers and cloak

tailors who established for the local a sick benefit fund. When the question of amalgamation with the ladies tailors was taken up it was clearly stipulated that in case of amalgamation the members of former Local No. 80 must also belong to the sick benefit fund, with this concession, that while a new member must undergo a medical examination and pay \$5 initiation fee to the sick fund, the members of former Local No. 80 will not have to undergo the examination and will have to pay only \$1.50 for initiation fee to the fund. Before the amalgamation was effected general members' meetings of both locals were held and these meetings it was practically unanimously decided to amalgamate under these conditions. Knowing these facts it is clear that only an irresponsible person will not obey the decision of the membership of the entire local. There are members who do not want to pay dues under any circumstances unless they are compelled to do so, and they use every pretext to get out of paying. In other words, these men want to share the benefits of the Union without giving its benefits.

4th—In the last paragraph of the letter he charges me personally with "playing politics" and says that I expose myself to scorn and ridicule when I advertise, in the name of Local No. 3, that if a member is 29 weeks in arrears he is automatically dropped from membership. He also states that I refuse to change the cards of men who do not pay all assessments.

Now, do not want to be harsh with my brother, but I cannot help pitying him for his lack of knowledge of our organization and because he does not know that a secretary of a local is only an executive officer who must carry out the legislation enacted by the members of the Union. The Executive Board of our local, as well as the executive boards of all the

locals affiliated with the Joint Board, decided that no book can be exchanged unless the dues and all assessments are paid up on the old book. And I only carry out this decision.

And finally, he sarcastically asks if I ever read the constitution of the International and if so I shall point out to him which article of the constitution he has disobeyed. If a man is willing to learn I am always ready to teach him and will therefore quote the article of our constitution which he has violated:

"Section 8, Article 8. Members must pay the dues, general assessments and local assessments decided upon by the local union, Joint Board, General Executive Board and conventions of the I. L. G. W. U. Any member three months in arrears shall stand suspended from all rights and privileges of membership. If six months have elapsed and they fail to meet their obligation, their names shall be dropped from the roll. In the event of illness or extraordinary cases, the Executive Committee of a L. U. shall have the power to make good the dues and local assessments only."

At first I did not consider it worth while to answer Mr. Kaltoff's letter as he is not a member of our Union, but as he thought I decided to answer not so much to him as to other members of our local who may have the same mistaken idea of our organization as Kaltoff has.

Fraternally yours,

S. Lefkovits,

Manager-Secretary  
P. S. While writing this letter I was informed by the shop chairman of J. Klugman & Son, who made a collection for the Russian Famine Sufferers, that Kaltoff refused to give his share to this fund. I think this shows the calibre of the man.

# THE BIG THREE

By NATHANIEL BUCHWALD

The most vital question of the day is not the menace of unemployment, as some think, nor the impending tie-up of the country's railways, nor the election bout between Kid Hylan and Battling Curran, nor even the great controversy that has arisen between Kenehan Mountain Landis and Babe Ruth,—the question that should properly command the attention of every patriotic citizen is how to arrange and perfect and carry out a fitting reception for the greatest men of all time whom we shall soon have the privilege of calling our guests.

Strikes come and strikes go broken by Federal troops, state constabularies and otherwise; unemployment is really an indispensable part of "normalcy"; election campaigns are as regular as the tides and as inevitable as measles; and the case of the Babe versus the Judge will, in all likelihood, soon be amicably adjusted and forgotten. But the arrival of David Lloyd George, Monsieur Aristide Briand, Marchel Foch and their entourage will remain a red letter day in our history, and their sojourn in our midst will mark a great epoch in the history of mankind.

Now, the thing is to arrange a reception that should fully and adequately express the deep-felt admiration which the American people have for these saviors of our civilization, who are also the chief architects of the New-World-Made-Safe-For-Dog-mocracy. Enthusiastic "multitudes" and military reviews and dinners and editorials aglow with feeling and, all that—well, that's old, trite stuff which doesn't really hit the nail on the head. We've got to devise a special way of expressing our appreciation of the specific merits and the

symbolic significance of these gentlemen who have so graciously accepted our invitation to come over and talk disarmament.

What are the big things about every one of this great trio? Introducing David Lloyd George, Prime Minister of His Majesty's government of Great Britain. The gentleman is one of the most versatile geniuses that ever steered the destinies of Britannia. He is as great in peace as he has been in war; in fact, he can produce such an artistic blend of war and peace, that it would take an ouija board to tell where war ends and peace begins. He is faster on his political feet than Frankie Frisch is on the baseball diamond, and can skip from one position on any public question to the very opposite position with amazing speed and without the slightest injury to his career. He is a "bear" at handling "labor troubles," timing to a nicety his "menace-to-civilisation" warnings with his overtures to the labor leaders who do the menacing. He is no fool at any game, and he knows when he is licked, which is more than any living statesman can boast of.

To us Americans, Lloyd George is known as the man who:

1. Accepted Wilson's 14 points and then drafted the bulk of the Versailles Treaty;
2. Ran, in 1919, on the issue of hanging the Kaiser and making the Boches foot the whole war bill;
3. Played the defender of the German people against the excessive demands of France;
4. Backed most of the intervention enterprises against Soviet Russia;

5. Was an eloquent advocate of trade relations with Soviet Russia;
6. Instituted the reign of Black and Tan in Ireland;
7. Invited the Irish "traitors and murderers" to a peace conference.

So much for Brother David Lloyd.

Monsieur Aristide Briand, Prime Minister of France, a fiery orator and one of the few experts at walking the tight rope of French parliamentary politics—M. Briand has a reputation to live down: he was once identified with one of the Socialist factions of France. Even his political foes will admit that he has completely reformed and hasn't a trace of the Socialist left in him. Briand's career furnishes a fine object lesson to our Sweeties and Lunks. It shows that the proper way to cure a Socialist of his Socialism is not to kick him out of the "house" but to elevate him to an exalted position. Briand was thus treated for his mild case of Socialism, and the results leave nothing better to be desired. He is now recognized as the French authority on strike smashing, making a nicer, more thorough job of it than even our far-famed State Cossacks and injunction Judges.

Another thing that distinguishes the French Premier is his policy of moderation toward Germany. Now, we are not trying to be funny. We really mean it. What France is now doing to Germany is known in France as moderation! And it is Briand who fought like a lion against those of his countrymen who insisted upon being hard on the Boches. Here you have a true specimen of French chivalry, a man who actually believes that the erstwhile enemy ought not to be put to death instantly but should be drawn and quartered instead.

Sentimentally M. Briand is nearer to our heart than Lloyd George. To begin with, he is the representative

of a nation that is just crazy about us Americans (all private reports to the contrary notwithstanding), and then he personally has a particular warm spot for us. It is certain that at the conference table in Washington M. Briand will pull for the U. S.; not that he loves Uncle Sam more but that he loves John Bull less.

And now the biggest of 'em all—Marchel Foch:

But Foch needs no introduction. We all know who he is and what he did. He licked Germany, and that's glory enough for any man; he therefore appears as Commander-in-Chief of the Allied Army of democracy was rather brisk but very intense, and the Marchel "got the habit." At the very least opportunity, with every new "moderate" demand—makes upon Berlin, Foch jumps into his military duds, grasps his blue prints and war maps and is ready to lead the French army into Germany.

The Marchel is a man of few words; the language of the cannon and the machine-gun is really the only language he commands. It would therefore appear that in the person of Marchel Foch the French government chose the wrong man to sit at a conference where the big issue will be disarmament. But those who know the inside stuff of the conference assure us that there will be plenty of chance for Foch to be in his own element and that the language spoken there for the most part will be the language he understands best.

And now that we know about the intrinsic and specific merits and talents of these three exalted personages, we will perhaps be able to do them justice and extend to them the welcome they deserve. One thing is certain: the Big Three will be as effective in bringing about Mr. Harding's ideal of disarmament as the Big Four over at Versailles were in carrying out the spirit and the letter of Mr. Wilson's 14 points.

## NEWS FROM LOCAL No. 20

By SAMUEL FREEDMAN

At our last general meeting at the Manhattan Lyceum, we discussed the problem of the unemployment raging among the cementers in our trade. A short time ago this same question was discussed at our Executive Committee meeting. The grave situation among the cementers was caused by the change of old fashioned raincoat garments to the gabardine and so-called gas mask coat which require no cementing. These garments are made exclusively by the operators and finishers and no cementing is required in the process of their making.

The office of Local No. 20 has done everything in its power to place as many cementers as possible at work. The office did all it could, in accordance with a decision of the Executive Board to teach cementers the operating, finishing and pressing trades so that they might be able to make a living at the other branches of waterproof garment making. Nevertheless these efforts have not done away with the ravages of unemployment among the cementers. To obviate entirely the troubles of the cementers it would be necessary that in each shop some cementers be taught either operating, finishing or pressing so that they might eventually find a place in a raincoat shop.

We understand that this process is not an easy one but it is an urgent

problem in the trade. And it is the duty of every shop chairman to see that something is done in his shop in this direction. The union cannot supply the cementers with more work than what the trade offers and the union is not in a position to dictate to the industry that garments be made cemented instead of being operated. If it depended upon Local No. 20 we would surely recommend that the garments be fully cemented instead of merely stitched. As it is the only way out of the tragic situation in which the cementers had been placed is to teach them the other parts of the trade and it is the moral duty of each and every member of the union to help them in this direction.

### WHAT OUR MEMBERS ARE DOING FOR RUSSIA

As soon as the decision of the conference called by the International of all the Executive Boards of the locals in Greater New York to donate a half day's pay for Russia was made known, we called together a meeting of all the shop chairmen in our trade. The meeting was addressed by Brother Louis Wexler, the writer of these lines. The meeting decided unanimously to endorse the decision of the big conference and to donate the half day's pay for the famine sufferers of Soviet Russia.

The response has been very creditable to the organization and if space would permit we would gladly publish the names of the shop chairmen and

of their shops and the sums donated by each. As this is impossible we can only state in brief that so far we have received donations from twenty-two shops already in sums ranging from fourteen dollars to more than one hundred dollars. We shall be able in a short time, after the collections have been completed, to give the readers of JUSTICE a detailed account of all the collections. We can say that while we have not met with any difficulties in collecting money for the famine sufferers of Russia, we can state with regret that the workers of one shop, namely of the U. and S. Raincoat Company, 30 West 22nd Street, have refused absolutely to donate a cent towards the famine sufferers. And while we have no particular grudge against the cementers of the shop, because they have not been working for a long time, we

want to point out the fact that the operators, pressers and finishers of that shop have been working straight for nine months and have made a fine living and these people could easily afford to give up a small part of their earnings towards the starving men, women and children of Russia. What is most despicable about the action of some of the workers in that shop is the fact that they originally requested Brother Louis Wexler, the manager of the Union to get the consent of the firm to work four extra hours aside from their regular hours and promised to donate these four hours for the Russian workers. After Brother Wexler had succeeded in obtaining the consent of the firm to this arrangement they refused to work the four hours, thus placing Brother Wexler in a very unpleasant position with regard to the firm.

## WISDOM OF THE POOR FISH

The Poor Fish says: When each individual decides to make himself better—then everything will be all right.



# Week Work, Production and the "Memorandum"

By MEYER PERLSSTEIN

The newest issue among cloakmakers appears to be the "memorandum" issue. To be more specific, the subject under discussion is the special agreement concluded with the Cloak Makers' Protective Association of New York last June.

Of course, there is nothing wrong in discussing anything, whether it be a "memorandum" or any other subject. On the other hand, we believe in discussions and the necessity of giving every matter a searching analysis before adopting it. This discussion about the "memorandum," however, reveals our enormous spiritual poverty and how little we grasp the significance of the most important problems that we are compelled to face.

The remarkable thing about this matter is that those who are getting the hottest under the collar about it have nothing themselves to propose in its place. If the opponents of the "memorandum" could prove that the method proposed by this instrument for the control of production is worthless and would propose something else as a substitute—whether practical or impractical—such a proposal would, at least, have the merit of opening a discussion on the proposed plan. The raising of a howl about a proposition that one either knows nothing about or feigns to know nothing about without having anything to propose as a substitute—when it comes in particular from persons in whom blind fate has vested the leadership of thousands—is a clamor tainted with irresponsibility and its results are likely to be quite harmful.

Let us consider this matter carefully. After years of discussing the evils of the piece work system, we have finally, at an appropriate moment, introduced week work throughout the cloak industry. Two years have passed already since we have been working under the new system. Is it then possible that our ardent debaters have not, during all this time, learned that our week work is of somewhat peculiar kind? Take, for instance, week work in the building trades, among the printers and similar crafts. Their unions have one scale of wages. There is a minimum scale and the union is interested that no one receive less than the minimum. The union is not concerned with any prices above the minimum.

would not force the employers to pay above the minimum and will not interfere with them when they pare down the few dollars or cents that they may have paid to a worker above the minimum for a certain time.

In our trade, however, every worker has a separate scale. We have first of all a minimum rate, and in addition we have a scale for each worker individually. One receives \$50, the second \$60, the third \$70, etc., etc. Of course, it is understood that the \$70 a week worker gets his additional \$20 because he produces \$20 a week more than the \$50 a week worker. It means that we recognize the principle of "the more money, the more work," which in other words means that the production of our workers is weighed and measured. The reason why we have accepted such a peculiar week work system, padded under with piece work, is first of all, because our entire trend of thought has always been working in the direction of piece work. And secondly, we may state it frankly, as there was a large number of cloakmakers who were opposed to week work, this system of week work, underlined with piece work, was adopted as a sop to this element. Thirdly, our industry is really a very entangled and complicated one and it seems that whatever we do must necessarily fit in with these special conditions.

Week work in general, and such a system of week work as we have established, constantly provokes new problems with which we must reckon and which we must solve. The first couple of years we got along pretty well under week work. Those who know the situation will understand that even under piece work the last few years would have been years of comparative prosperity for the workers. They were the best years that this country has ever passed through. The profits of the manufacturers were tremendous. They had work aplenty and they did not care whether a garment had to cost them half a dollar or a dollar more. Now, however, when times are bad, when there is not even war in sight, and we have reached "normal" times, when manufacturers are beginning to operate upon so-called legitimate profits, our employers will not permit that a garment cost them a dollar more, but will, on the other hand, try their best

that the garment cost them a dollar less.

Many will ask at this point: Where does the Union come in here? To those who reply as follows: Those who believe that under conditions that exist at present in this country a trade union can abolish or solve entirely the problems of labor, make a tremendous mistake. What the union can do is to slightly alleviate the woes of the workers and to go forward at a slow pace. We must keep in mind that capitalism has not yet been abolished in America and even where it has been abolished, the workers are not yet having the good things of the world handed out to them on golden platters. We still have to deal with capitalists because we work for them. To get angry with them and not to deal with them will not do much good. As soon as we organize our forces we demand recognition from the employers and recognition means a request for transacting business with them. In some cases the employers are opposed to this and they won't even deal with the workers. We have before us the example of the Steel Trust, of the Harvester Trust, and only in the recent past of the Meat Packing Trust. Once we deal with the employers, it means that we must also consider their opinion as we concede that they also have something to say and just as much as we expect them to consider our requests, we are expected to consider theirs.

The trade union recognizes that the "workers must turn an honest day's labor for an honest day's wage." Now what does that mean? Is it only a phrase or does that mean that

when a manufacturer pays an "honest day's wage" the union is obliged to see that he receives in return an honest day's work? Which means, for instance, that if a worker receives \$70 a week, a wage based upon his former earnings as a piece worker, he has obligated himself to the union to produce a certain amount of work for this money. In such a case, if the worker begins to produce less and the employer comes to the union and proves this, what is the union to do? In the case when an employer starts paying a \$70 per week worker \$60, we know that the union intervenes and forces the employer to give the worker back pay. What about the case when an employer should come to the union and prove that the worker does not produce? Must the union make good for its obligation to give in return "an honest day's work"?

Generally speaking, we must understand that production as such is highly important for us, too. What we are fighting with our employers about are the profits from production. We, of course, radically differ with the employers on the interpretation of production. To them production means long work hours and sweating. The union's point of view is that the worker must work short hours and according to human standards. Nevertheless, it is certain that the union and each and every worker must believe in productivity. We see, therefore, that inasmuch as the union holds the employer responsible for wages and working conditions, the employer holds the union responsible for a certain amount of productivity.

(To be continued)

## With The Waist and Dress Joint Board

By M. K. MACKOFF, Secretary

(Minutes of Meeting, Oct. 13, 1921.)

Harry Berlin in the chair.

Brother Esenfeld, Manager of the Brownsville district appeared before the Joint Board stating that the Lerner Waist Company, which has a shop in Brownsville moved part of its factory to Newark, N. J. Upon investigation it was found that they are employing twelve people at the Newark shop and are making plans to engage more workers. The firm's open shop in Newark apparently meant for the purpose of gradually getting away from Brownsville and escaping the control of the Union. After a thorough discussion it was decided to unionize the Newark shop. Brother Halpern promised that the two representatives of the International in Newark will assist in organizing the Lerner shop.

Brother Horowitz, Manager of the Association Department, reported that the relations between the Association and the Union have become strained of late owing to the friction incurred in connection with the shop of Handerman & Co., which is a member of the Association. The facts in this case are as follows:

The firm reduced its plant to eight machines without taking up the matter with the Union and contrary to the provision of the minimum of twelve machines. As a result, thirty of its regular operators were left without machines and the workers are now stopping. The Union charges the firm with a lockout and the Association is counterbalancing it with calling a strike. It appears that the Association upholds the action of the firm contrary to the agreement with the Union and refuses to investigate this case and a number of other cases as well, where facts are sought by the representatives of the Union.

After a lengthy discussion it was decided to approve the action of Brother Horowitz and also that in case

relations become more complicated that a special meeting of the Board of Directors should be called.

With regard to calling shop chairmen and active members to meetings for the purpose of soliciting their cooperation in carrying out organization plans, this question was acted upon. It was decided to inform Local 25 that in view of the fact that the Board of Directors had already appointed a committee to work out a plan for calling meetings of a similar nature, it was decided to wait until the recommendations of that committee are submitted to the Joint Board.

The Board of Directors has also recommended to donate One Hundred Dollars to the striking miners of West Virginia upon the request made by Miss Lulu B. Montgomery. This recommendation was carried.

On behalf of Local No. 66, Brother Riesel reported that this local is at present conducting eight single strikes, one of them in Freehold, N. J. Besides, the Association of Embroiderers is threatening Local No. 66 with law suits, the result of which may lead to an official rupture of relations between the embroidery workers and the Association. He also told the case of the failure of Richter Bros. to get an injunction against the Union.

The Board of Directors also took up the recommendations of the Unity House Committee and reported that in view of the fact that Sisters Switzky and Silver had stated that their services had terminated that they be appointed as a temporary committee which should organize a Unity House committee to work out definite plans for the future running of the Unity House and submit its report to the Board of Directors. The following were placed on the committee:

J. Halpern, H. Berlin, J. Hochman, R. Genet, and N. Riesel.

## RUSSIAN RELIEF FUND INSTRUCTIONS

Collections from cloak shops can be brought to all the offices of the Joint Board of the Cloakmakers' Union, namely:

New York City: 40 East 23d St., 35 E. 2nd St., 1714 Lexington Ave. Brooklyn: 99 McKibben Street.

Brownsville: 215 Sackman Street.

JERSEY City: 76 Montgomery Street

Newark: 163 Montgomery Street.

Collections in shops of the waist and dress industry are to be brought to the following offices:

Joint Board, 16 W. 21st St., New York

Italian Waist and Dressmakers Union, 8 W. 21st St.

Brooklyn: 60 Graham Avenue

Collections from shops of other locals of the International in Greater New York are to be brought to the following offices:

Embroidery Workers Union, Local No. 6, 394 E. 150th St.

Bonnas Embroidery Workers, 220 E. 14th St.

Raincoat Makers Union, Local No. 20, 22 W. 17th St.

House Dress Workers Union, Local No. 41, 22 W. 17th St.

Children Dress Mfrs. Union, Local No. 56, 22 W. 17th St.

White Goods Work. Union, Local No. 62, 117 Second Ave.

Custom Dress Mfrs. Union, Local No. 99, 724 Lexington Ave.

Sales Clerks Union, Local No. 131, 71 W. 118th St.

# JUSTICE

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## EDITORIALS

### ON THE THRESHOLD OF GREAT EVENTS

It would, of course, be hazardous to state definitely that there will be a railroad strike. There is still more than a week left until the date set for the general strike and a number of moves and counter-moves that in that interval that might either prevent the strike or make it inevitable. It all depends upon the course of the Government and the railway magnates.

That the great majority of the railway workers and their leaders are not very eager for a fight is an indisputable fact. It is generally known that the railway workers are not strikers "on principle" and are not persons who believe in strikes as the only weapon for improving their economic conditions. The last great railway strike, led by Debs, took place in 1894, and ended in a victory for the railway owners—thanks to the unjustifiable and brutal intervention of President Cleveland who sent federal troops against the strikers. It is now over a quarter of a century since a strike of any magnitude had taken place on our railways—not counting some small strikes and the "outlaw" strike of last year in the Middle West which, however, did not affect to any great extent the general railway situation.

This fact is in itself strong proof that our railway workers are not enthusiastic strikers, as doubtlessly they must have had during these twenty-seven years sufficient grievances and provocation for striking which they have nevertheless resisted.

It is true their wages have been increased during the last few years and they have also succeeded in putting on the statute books the well-known Adamson Eight-Hour Law. That took place during the years of the War when the Government had no other alternative but to concede the demands of the workers. In this respect, however, the railway workers were not an exception to any other workers who have had their wages raised and their work-hours shortened during that period. The difference only was that while in other industries workers had to fight hard to win better conditions, the railwaymen have won theirs through the mere threat of striking.

In the light of that experience, it is an open question whether the strike order for October 30 is meant by the workers and their leaders as a mere threat or was given in full earnest. We shall leave it to the public to answer. We are certain of one thing: Should the railway materialize and cause a tremendous upsetting of conditions in the country and entail suffering to millions, it will not be the fault of the railway workers but of the railway magnates. The true situation is that the railway workers have been forced into this fight by the action of the railway companies. With the same eagerness that the capitalists of this country have endeavored during the war years not to provoke strikes they are now attempting by every foul means and method to incite strikes. This is particularly true in the railway situation. It is apparent that the railway companies are out to provoke the workers into a conflict in the hope that they might crush their unions and eliminate them forever as a factor.

The Railway Labor Board, a creature of the Asch-Cummins Law, and the embodiment of the first effort to clip the wings of the railway unions, had decided last June for a reduction of 12 per cent of the wages of all railway workers. This wage cut was made on the ground of urgent general reconstruction. It was claimed that this reduction, which would amount annually to \$400,000,000, would be passed on by the railway companies to the public in the form of decreased freight rates. Living conditions, it was said, would thereby become cheaper and eagerly sought "normalcy" would be ushered in. It happens, however, that while the wages of the workers had been cut, the railway companies are still exacting the same freight rates and living necessities have not become cheaper. In addition, the government has recently made the railroads an elegant present of \$500,000,000 to "save them from bankruptcy."

Of course this state of affairs did not please the railway workers very much. They have begun to confer and argue again with the railway companies, but the latter declared in rigid terms that as far as the July wage-cut was concerned the workers may as well forget about it and also that they cannot reduce freight rates at present as they can hardly make their ends meet. Instead, they have made another application to the Railway Labor Board for a new 10 per cent reduction in wages. Only after this is granted, they said, they might turn their attention to the problem of decreasing freight rates. This attitude proved at once to the railwaymen and their leaders that the companies had made up their minds to take away from them all they had gained in the last few years. Was there anything else left for them but to announce that they were determined to fight to the last to retain their living standards and wages?

When the fight between the railway workers and their employers occurs, a fight that will paralyze the entire life of the country, we must keep in mind that the blame for it is to be placed not upon the workers but upon the railway magnates. Of course, our entire press, sold body and soul to capitalism, is already snarling and yelping at the railway workers. How dare they, indeed, bring such a misfortune upon the country? The press is threatening the railway workers with the unmitigated wrath of "public opinion" and is predicting in advance dismal failure for the strike. Many of the railway workers, these wiseacres claim, will not obey the strike order. Again, they point to the five million or more of unemployed among whom there are many experienced railway workers who would gladly, according to them, welcome the opportunity of taking the places of the strikers. Thirdly, they say, we have a limitless number of automobiles, trucks and idle ships that could be used in times of emergency. In brief, the strike is a mad undertaking and the railway workers, in going out on strike, are committing an act of suicide.

Of course, they may be a scintilla of truth here and there in these statements. The railway workers, however, see clearly that to surrender to the subtle dictation of the railway companies would mean to destroy their union. Who, then, could cast even the slightest reproach upon them for their determination to fight? The railway workers, have, by this time, learned enough to understand the hypocrisy and the bluff that lie behind the calculations and the threats of the capitalist press and the anger of the beloved "public." These base machinations will not deter them for a minute in their fight for the right to live in a more or less human manner.

It is, therefore, quite probable that within a short time we shall be face to face with one of the greatest struggles America has ever seen. One cannot be wise enough to predict with certainty what such a fight might bring in its wake. We can only say that we are on the threshold of great events, if the railroad workers will, first of all, prove to be true and genuine fighters themselves, and, second, if the entire labor movement will make the fight of the railway workers its own fight, regardless of the many grievances that some among us may have had against the Railway Brotherhoods for their aloofness from the rest of the labor movement in the past and despite the fact that the first and greatest sufferers in this strike will be the workers in the various trades and industries of the land.

### THE BLACK HANDERS IN OUR UNIONS

Last week there was scattered among the cloakmakers of New York an illiterate scribble in the form of a handbill in which the cloakmakers were warned against their "traitor leaders." This anonymous handbill was replete with filthy abuse and counterfeit charges familiar to some of our readers from similar handbills scattered among our workers some time ago. Like those other handbills, this also was signed anonymously "by a group of active cloakmakers."

The purpose of this anonymous concoction is clear. It is intended to poison the minds of the members of the Cloakmakers' Union and to undermine thereby the existence of that organization. It is a well-known fact that we are now approaching one of the most difficult and important moments in the life of our union. No one can foretell whether or not from today our union will not be confronted with one of the gravest conflicts in its history. The success of such a struggle can only be made secure by the highest degree of unity and the complete confidence and respect of the entire membership towards its leadership. Our leaders, in order to meet the situation firmly and courageously, must feel that they have the entire union back of them. The attitude of our employers, must and will depend largely upon their knowledge of how fully the leaders represent the union at this critical moment. When at such a time "a group of active cloakmakers" comes out and endeavors to besmear those who are to lead this great fight as "traitors" and as such "who have sold out to the bosses," can one find a more appropriate name for these miscreants than that of "Black Handers" who are sowing seeds of mistrust, demoralization and confusion within our own ranks?

In point of true fact, we don't believe that these rascals who hide themselves under the name of "active cloakmakers" are cloakmakers at all. Why should a cloakmaker put a mask on his face when he can freely and openly attack his leaders and their plans without any hindrance? Local 1 and 9 deemed it necessary to criticize the so-called "Memorandum." Were they in any way interfered with or did anyone even desire to interfere with them? Both locals have been discussing plans for shop committees; were they in any way hampered in the propaganda and the discussion of these plans? Why should a group of cloakmakers find it necessary to distribute anonymous circulars? There can be only one reason for that and that is, namely, that these distributors are not cloakmakers but ordinary, common-garden-variety hired agents of the bitterest enemies of our Union who are beginning to wage their nefarious campaign against our organization in time.

We deem it necessary, therefore, to warn our workers against these nameless mudslingers. The best that our men and women can do is to throw these handbills back into the faces of those who distribute them. The moment they ascertain that the handbill is signed by a gang that is concealing its identity under all sorts of names, they can rest assured that these fellows are not friends of the Union. True and devoted friends of the Union would not fear to come out in the open with their true names. Moreover, the Union must make an attempt, once for all, to learn the identity of these Black Handers and to expose and eliminate this "Maffin" from our midst.



# THE UNEMPLOYMENT CRISIS IN ITALY

By MARION LUCAS

One million workers are unemployed in Italy and the employers are planning to use this great army of jobless to break down wages and working conditions. The General Confederation of Labor is rallying its forces throughout the country for a great defensive.

There is extensive unemployment among the employees of the State because many bureaus used for conducting the tremendous business of the world war have been liquidated. Another reason for the unemployment of State clerks and other office workers of the government is the employment of soldiers who were mutilated in the war in preference to employees who came back from the trenches uninjured.

Grave unemployment has existed for a long time on the smaller railways and highways because of the discontinuance of several lines and the diminution of traffic. This lessened traffic is due to the decrease of foreign tourists, who have not visited Italy in great numbers since the war. Tourists still come to Italy from England, Sweden, Norway and France, but not in such great numbers as before the war. The biggest decrease is in American tourists who, frightened by the tales of hardships and lack of food in Italy, prefer to stay in a country which did not suffer so much from the war. The depreciation of Italy's money also has had considerable influence on the decrease of railway traffic, as Italy is doing little importing or exporting.

Foreign competition has aggravated the stagnation in the glass industry. The union of glass workers reports that the industry has reached a crisis throughout Italy. A crisis has not yet been reached in the clothing industry of Italy, although it is reported that unemployment is found in every city. The union of clothing

workers does not in the least resemble the enormous organizations in the women's and men's garment industry in the United States. An organization like the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union is regarded with great awe by the workers in the clothing industry of Italy. This is due partially to the fact that huge sheeps for the production of ready-made clothing are as yet confined to America. For the most part, Europe still patronizes the custom tailor.

Many employees in the glass industry are without work, as a result of the diminution of gas consumption and the high cost of coal. Government restrictions on the use of gas, also due to the shortage of coal, have also had something to do with the depression in this industry. The strict luxury tax has caused many furniture workers to lose their positions, as few inhabitants of Italy can afford more than the bare necessities of life.

Depression in the industry of the "White Arts," which includes all employees in bakeries, candy factories, and similar establishments for the production of food, is general. It was suggested at a recent convention of the Italian General Confederation of Labor that conditions in this industry could be ameliorated if the law demanding one day of rest a week were enforced throughout the country. At present this law is being violated in many localities in Italy and workers are consequently being robbed of employment. The diminution in traffic affects the organized porters of baggage as well as sailors. Due to the fact that there is little importation and exportation many steamship lines have been forced to discontinue their service. The curtailment of this service is directly traceable to the crisis in exchange and the corresponding high cost of raw materials imported into Italy.

For a year unemployment has been general throughout the wool textile industry, although it has not caused many discharges. The work week has been shortened, but most of the workers have been retained. In the cotton industry the crisis is more recent and more serious. The reason for this is the lack of raw material, the employers not wishing to buy at a high price and then be forced to sell later at a loss. Again the low value of the Italian lire contributes to unwillingness to buy raw material from foreign countries.

In the metal industry there has been plenty of work for those who work on locomotives and electrical appliances. The industry of naval construction is passing through a period of uncertainty. The situation depends on the decision of the government with regard to naval construction, but also with regard to the construction of a merchant marine. Fifty per cent of the workers in the automobile industry are working reduced hours. A reduction of wages has been accepted by the workers in this industry and further unemployment is expected. About 20 per cent of the mechanics are working part time.

Many canneries are closed. Others are working on part time. About fifty per cent of the workers in the leather industry are without work. This is partially due to the fact that the industry was developed excessively during the war and now it is found that more had been produced in this line than is needed for national consumption. The shops are full of shoes, which do not sell because they are too expensive. It is not possible to sell on credit because the banks have not made sufficient preparation for this. With exportation greatly reduced, the industry depends on domestic consumption, which is not great enough to keep it going.

The decrease in exports has particularly affected the hat and cap industry. Only twenty per cent unemployment is reported in the chemical factories, although the liquor and perfumery industries have been seriously injured by the domestic consumption of foreign products and the diminished production of alcohol.

The farmers, or agricultural workers, have been going through a difficult crisis. The chief reasons for unemployment of these workers have been the employment of boys, who can be hired for lower wages than adults, the cessation of immigration, which leaves more unorganized workers in the country districts, and the return of many Italians from other countries to Italy. Unemployment has also been caused in many large districts by the strikes of last year. The strike against the sowing of seed in many regions has resulted in great industrial depression during harvest time.

The situation of the workers in the building trades of Italy is the brightest today. Italy, like the rest of the countries embroiled in the world war, has not constructed any dwellings during the past five years. As a result, she is today making a frantic effort to construct homes. This is particularly true of Rome, where an acute housing shortage exists. For this reason, there is no unemployment in this industry, perhaps the only one in Italy which is not suffering from the general depression.

Suggestions advanced as a solution for the grave industrial crisis now threatening Italy have included the syndicalist control over industry as suggested by the General Confederation of Labor; the reduction of the rate of interest on the public debt to one per cent, with the consequent reduction in taxes; state control of the industries of public service, with appropriate compensation to owners, and gradual appropriation of the land, with adequate compensation to the owners.

Other suggestions accepted by the Confederation of Labor for the purpose of alleviating the distress of the unemployed include: (1) a national program, with appropriate financial budget and technical advice for the construction of public works and the reconstruction of countries devastated by the war; (2) state provincial and community financing of the construction of public works, and (3) imposition of taxes on superfluous wealth and seigniorial houses.

## The Trial in West Virginia

(Continued from Page 3)

cursed and threatened him and finally bragged of the numbers of miners they had killed in Mingo. This report gathered color as it was carried along until finally at Ottawa, Boone county men seized their arms, mustered 500 men in the first band and started the march gathering strength as they passed through the union districts until 6,000 men were under arms and in about 18 days reached their objective at Madison to cross Logan and get into Mingo, only to disband on the advice of General H. H. Handholtz and the district officials. Federal troops had not yet arrived.

There would have been no battle at Blair at all if the Chafin forces had not taken advantage of Handholtz's turning back the main army of miners and sent Capt. J. R. Brockus, on August 27, with a unit of state police to serve warrants and arrest striking miners. At Beach creek they wantonly killed three miners. Within two days a part of the miners' army collected again and fighting began which resulted in the actual arrival of federal troops. This is the important point that will be made in the defense of the West Virginia strikers against the charge that they conspired to lead an insurrection.

One of the worst atrocity stories the coal operators circulated concerns "Ed" Hatfield whose memory

is kept green by the mountaineers as a good citizen and fighting man. His grave across the river from Matewan, where Hatfield conducted a jewelry store and where the battle occurred in which seven Baldwin-Felts agents were killed and three miners were slain is next to that of Mayor Cabell Sherman who dropped at the first volley of the invading gunmen. It occupies a bluff on the Kentucky side overlooking the turbid waters of the Tug river and from it can be seen the miners' tent colony at Blackberry City, W. Va. It is still unmarked by a tombstone, but anyone in the region will point out the yellow mound of sand under which the hero of Matewan lies. The funeral they will tell you was attended by everyone in the region and more than 2,000 persons came from the outside, Huntington, Charleston, Cabin creek, on foot, over the trails, by train and in automobiles over dangerous mountain roads to witness the burial.

It is said that after Hatfield shot Albert Felts he ground his heel into the face of the dead detective and that for this he was murdered when he came to Welch, seat of McDowell county to be arraigned on another indictment arising out of the Matewan battle after his first acquittal in Mingo.

But more reasonable was the version that old Tom Felts, head of the Baldwin-Felts Detective agency who directed its operations from Bluefield, swore to get revenge if the courts would not convict Hatfield and the others. He had reasons too, for in the Matewan battle he lost two brothers, Albert and Lee Felts, and the resulting clamor foretold the end of the mine guard system which he devised and out of which he got his living.

His agency had never been popular. The armed train that his men conducted through the Cabin creek and Paint creek fields in 1912 and the brutalities of his men at Ludlow, Colorado never having been forgotten.

Since Hatfield was killed, Tom Felts rarely leaves Bluefield and the same is said of C. E. Lively, the gunman who arranged the murder of Hatfield and Chambers. Lively remains close to Don Chafin's domain in Logan.

They tell a story about Lively that is generally believed by the miners who have no reason to love him, for he was both spy and traitor to them. "Ed" Chambers fell backwards in front of the court house at Welch, dead before he hit the steps from the volley of shots fired by the group of Baldwin-Felts agents waiting for the miners' party to get into range. Lively then stepped forward, and to make sure that Chambers was done for, fired two more shots putting his pistol right back of the dead man's ear. In court when being arraigned, Lively admitted that he killed Chambers, but he denied shooting Hatfield.

Contrary to common report, Cham-

bers is as much a hero in Mingo county as Hatfield. He was a member of an equally prominent and respectable family of first settlers and one of a group of young men who vied with each other in matters of personal courage and marksmanship. He was the leader among the miners of Matewan and it was his friendship with "Sid" that brought the best and quickest pistol shot to the miners' side. Incidentally Hatfield was chief of police at Matewan, and a miners' sympathizer was the mayor and the sheriff of the county was also friendly. This was a hard combination for the Baldwin-Felts gang to tackle as it later turned out.

Back of all the recent trouble in West Virginia lies the deep-seated resentment of the workers against this brutal and unprovoked murder on the court house steps at Welch. This outrage made them lose faith in the government of West Virginia. That's why a state of war with all the hatred of class antagonism still hovers over the mountain country.

STUDENTS OF UNITY CENTERS AND WORKERS' UNIVERSITY WHO HAVE CHANGED RESIDENCE ARE REQUESTED TO SEND NEW ADDRESSES TO OFFICE OF EDUCATIONAL DEPARTMENT.

## THE STAGE

**"THE AMBUSH,"** a play in three acts, by Arthur Richman  
At the Garrick Theatre  
By M. D. DANISH

"The Ambush," with which the Theatre Guild has started its season at the Garrick Theatre—is a strenuous realistic play, a study of the impotence and helplessness in which a white collar slave family is writhing and wriggling. Not a story of shattered grandiose ideals and strivings—these do not abound in American middle-class homes—but a tale, rather slowly told, of a fight put up by a highly sensitive middle-aged father against the wiles of a pretty, diseased young animal of a daughter, pleasure bent and gold hungry, aided and abetted by a conniving mother.

Not the father alone, but nearly everybody in the play gets "ambushed." Walter Nichols, fearfully handicapped with love for his daughter, is hammered down into dust throughout the three acts, during which he occupies the stage almost uninterruptedly, ambushed by the discovery that not only is his daughter auctioning herself off to the highest bidder, but that he himself is compelled to take a job and even rent-money from her latest "lover" and to pay for it with enforced silence and acquiescence. Margaret, the girl is ambushed early in her life—through her irrepresable craving for good things and clothes and the glitter which she cannot get at home—first by Harry Gleason, the cheap little clerk, and later, when her eyes open to the bigger fish in the pond, by the Allen Kraligne and the George Lithridges.

Seymour Jennison, the boisterous local financial wizard, gets ambushed in short order when his glittering prospects go glimmering together with the few thousand dollars of Walter Nichols, whom he had inveigled into his stock buying schemes. With it go the ambitions of Mrs. Nichols who had seen visions of wealth interpreted to her by the verbose Jennison. Little Harry Gleason, jilted and jeered at by Margaret, is shoved into the gutter early in the play and becomes a drunkard.

The portrayal of the characters, with some exceptions, is done ex-

trremely well. The father's surrender, minus bombast and flourish, is genuine and rings true to the core. His weak, sports of anger, his helplessness as he sees his honor being battered away for him by his "hard-boiled" family, fit wonderfully well into the general picture of the middle-aged clerk drawn by Mr. Richman, as he drifts into a life of shame and ruin the reason for which he sees not and which he cannot, and probably, will not resist.

On the whole, the play is well acted, too. Franz Reichler, the actor-producer of the Guild, has interpreted the old clerk masterfully. He moves along in the play a real human being, pathetic, eternally baffled and beaten, and reaches the climax in as flawless and consummate a piece of acting as we have seen in a long time. Florence Eldridge, the daughter, acts well and is a convincing example of the "moralless" metropolitan girl, whose name is legion, and whose number is ever growing, and whose nakedness of soul is so nauseating and revolting. The mother, Jane Wheatley passes through the play a hard and sordid figure.

For twenty-two years the happy wife and master of Walter Nichols, she appears a good deal too much of a contrast to him and leaves the audience guessing why her husband acts with so much tenderness towards her even though we might understand his inner fear of her.

The energetic acting of energetic Mr. Jennison, done by John Craig, appears to us, as it must have appeared to a great many in the audience, a good deal too energetic. If Mr. Craig could succeed in restraining a little his acting he would undoubtedly give us a truer interpretation of the Jersey City Wallingford than what he does now in his tempestuous portrayal. His quarry, Walter Nichols, is after all, not so difficult that he must employ vocal and histrionic howitzers to subdue him. The other members of the cast go through their acts tolerably well. George Stillwell, as Lithridge, and Edward Donnelly as the elder Kraligne, however, act their parts far superior to the other main roles of Alan Kraligne and Harry Gleason played by Noel Leslie and Charles Ellis, respectively.

On the whole, the production of "The Ambush" is a highly creditable season's beginning for the Theatre Guild. If it lacks humor, cheer and some of the sunny side of life—of which we believe there must be some even in Jersey City flats and the in-junction of which would not injure the play in the least—it is an earnest study, well-written and well-acted and it deserves the fullest support of the intelligent portion of New York's theatre goers. The play is not a tendency drama, in fact it has no particular message, hobby or ideal fixe to convey or emphasize. It is just a slice of life, American life as it is, and it rings true from the first word to the last certain drop.

We recommend it whole heartedly to our readers.

## MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC NOTES

Otis Skinner will appear as Shylack at the Actors' Fidelity League's first program of the season at the Henry Miller Theatre on Oct. 23. Also on the program will be Amelia Bingham in a one-act play.

"The success of 'The Circle' at the Selwyn Theatre," Edgar Selwyn writes in to say, "is proof enough that folk are not less interested in the theatre this season than in any other year if they are given a play

## IN THE REALM OF BOOKS

## HUGO STINNES—THE CZAR OF THE NEW GERMANY

B. W. Huebner, Inc., announces the first book in English on the career of Hugo Stinnes, who has been called "the Czar of the New Germany." The book is a translation by Alfred Booth Kuttner, of a biography by Dr. Herman Brinkmeyer which has already attained wide circulation in Europe. The book tells all about Stinnes; his family, for which three generations has been pre-eminent in German industry; his own position during the war, when he was head of the German Intelligence Service; his various immense and far-reaching amalgamations; his domestic and foreign conquests; his control of the press and, perhaps most important of all, a chapter on "The Significance of Stinnes' Achievements to the Development of German Business." Since the activities of Stinnes are almost co-extensive with the chief business enterprises in which Germany is engaged at the present time, the book offers a panoramic view of Germany's

industrial development at the moment and a forecast of the direction which that development is likely to take.

We have received the following books, comment on which will appear in the early issues of JUSTICE: The Development of Economics—O. Fred Boucke, Macmillan & Co.; The Economics of Communism—Leo Palovsky, Macmillan & Co.; Dangerous Ages—Rose Macaulay, Boni & Liveright; God's Anointed—Mary Katharine Maule, The Century Co.; Ben Thorpe—Arthur Krabb, Century Co.; Out of Their Own Mouths—Gompers and Walling, E. P. Dutton & Co.; Psychoanalysis of the Unconscious—D. H. Lawrence, Thomas Selzer; Gold—Eugene O'Neill, Boni & Liveright; Industrial Government—J. R. Commons, Macmillan; The Labor Movement—Frank Tannenbaum, Putnam; Lilliput—Frans Molnar, Boni & Liveright.

## MARTINELLI WILL SING AT SOCIALIST PARTY BENEFIT

The most important concert of the early season will be held October 30th at the Hippodrome, for the benefit of the Socialist party, when Giovanni Martinelli, the leading tenor of the Metropolitan Opera House, will make his first bow to the New York public since the death of Caruso.

Martinelli was in South America, filling a highly successful engagement at the Colon Theatre in Buenos Aires, when Caruso's death occurred. Mr. Gatti, impresario of the big Broadway house, promptly cabled Martinelli from Italy to take good care of his voice, since it would have many responsibilities thrust upon it.

With the tenor, Miss Nina Morgana, Italian-American soprano, will sing, and Vasa Priboda, a brilliant Bohemian violinist, will make his first appearance in his second tour of the country.

The advance sale of tickets indicates a highly successful affair, preparations already being made for the largest audience ever housed by the big Sixth Avenue theatre.

Tickets are on sale at the People's House, 7 East 15th Street, at The Call, 112 Fourth Avenue, at the Fordward, 175 East Broadway, and at every Socialist headquarters in the city.

worthy of their attention. This comedy has enjoyed capacity business since the opening night."

Arthur Rubenstein, the pianist, arrived on the Cunarder Caronia for a concert tour of the United States. He gave a concert on the ship Thursday night for the benefit of the American and British Seamen's funds.

The East-West Players will present a program of one-act plays at the Princess Theatre during the week of Nov. 7. On the bill will be "Autumn Fire," by Gustav Wied; "The Pot-bellied," by Alice Gerstenberg; "Sweet and Twenty," by Floyd Dell, and "The Eternal Judith," from the Rumanian of J. L. Caragiale.

David Belasco's production of "The Grand Duke," which comes to the Lyceum on Nov. 1, had its premiere in Baltimore last night before an audience which included Governor Ritchie of Maryland. Lionel Atwell is starred in the new play.

"The Great Brozzopp," a new comedy by A. A. Milne, has been placed in rehearsal by Ida Payne.

"The Demi-Virgin" opened at the Times Square Theatre on Tuesday night.

The Shuberts are to produce a new Edward Sheldon play called "The Lonely Heart," with Basil Sidney as leading man.

Mrs. Emma Desion, former soprano of the Metropolitan Opera

Company, arrived yesterday on the French liner Savole to make a tour of the large cities from New York to the Pacific Coast, which will include forty concerts. The prima donna looked much thinner than when she was here a year ago, and said she had been summing at her Chateau in Czechoslovakia. She was accompanied by George Lapeyre, her accompanist.

Walter Damrosch "on the bench," surrounded by 1600 musically inclined New Yorkers as "the jury," staged graphically at Aeolian Hall Monday what he describes as "not the 'Return of Peter Grimm' but that of Richard Wagner." Under the spotlight in a darkened hall, Mr. Damrosch gave something like his 1,001st lecture in opening a series on the music dramas of "The Nibelung Ring." He spoke, like a Scheherazade of Norse mythology, to rapt attention such as had marked the early Wagner enthusiasm of a generation ago in private homes here and at old Daly's Theatre, now vanished as completely as the rainbow bridge to Walhalla.

The speaker, who had played a large part in the first Metropolitan performances of "The Ring," could refer to time's changes in interpretation of "The Rhine Gold," which was yesterday's subject; especially, in a Shavian sense, to some of that prologue's characters as the "proletariat" of their age. Laughter and applause punctuated his remarks, as the full house and stage crowd, "in a sense," in an informal matinee, while Mr. Damrosch at a grand piano added his persuasive representation of the music of Wagner.

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OPEN EVENINGS

# LABOR THE WORLD OVER

## DOMESTIC ITEMS

Samuel Rea, president of the Pennsylvania Railroad, has informed an expert public how railroad rates can be cut.

The first thing necessary is for Congress to vote \$500,000,000 to the roads. Next, reduce wages; then change working conditions; revise all laws that interfere with the "initiative" of railroads and tax all motor trucks that compete with railroads.

Mr. Rea is confident that rates can be reduced if the details he suggests are arranged.

He also announced that the Pennsylvania Railroad will not obey rulings of the United States Railroad Labor Board when "convinced they are wrong."

Lumber dealers report an "upward price tendency," especially for southern pine and Douglas fir, the advances being fairly general and ranging during the last two weeks from \$3 to \$5 per 1,000 feet.

According to a Federated Press message from Fort Dodge (Iowa) the mayor of that city confirms a report that more than 100,000 gallons of milk have been thrown into the sewers during the last three months in order to keep up prices.

There are 100,000 more families than houses in this city, declares Dr. Royal S. Copeland, municipal health commissioner.

If an epidemic should start, he said, he would move people out of the crowded tenement sections into high class apartments that are standing empty in other parts of the city.

If high rents continue bankruptcy threatens many bedding manufacturers, according to G. T. Glaman, secretary of the National Association of Bedding Manufacturers. He says high rents have frightened young men out of matrimony and caused a general doubling up of families and abolition of the guest room.

Steel companies in the Pittsburgh district are housing Arabians and Orientals and giving them credit in company stores. It is intended that these aliens, engulfed in debt, can be used to advantage when prosperity returns.

When the wave of immigration from foreign countries was at high tide the steel companies did not have much trouble maintaining a long line of applicants for work outside their gates. These unemployed were used to throw the fear of unemployment into the employes and made it possible to maintain the lowest wages existing in any industry in the country.

The government intervened to prevent a possible stoppage of coal production next March, when the miners' wage scale agreement expires, but its efforts after a four-hour conference at the White House between President Harding, Secretaries Hoover and Davis and union officials were said to have been without avail.

The Senate by a vote of 47 to 37 passed the Borah Bill, giving to vessels in the American coastwise trade the right of free passage through the Panama Canal.

The Massachusetts Minimum Wage Commission today reduced the minimum wage of women and girls in the candy industry to \$12 a week, though it still keeps the cost of living at \$13.50 a week.

The advisory committee on armament limitation formed by President Gompers of the American Federation of Labor and including about one hundred of the leading men and women of America, will hold its first meeting at the Lafayette Hotel at Washington on October 18.

Two coal bills, one for the regulation of the industry itself and the other intended to curb profiteering, were introduced in the Senate today by Senator Kenyon of Iowa.

The Labor Department has under advisement, and is mediating in sixty-six labor disputes which involve about 400,000 men.

Values of imports and exports of merchandise each fell out materially during September, according to figures made public by the Department of Commerce. Imports were \$180,000,000, the lowest for any month this year. Exports were only \$5,000,000 more than the lowest month this year and \$46,000,000 below August, the record month. Both imports and exports were 50 per cent below the totals for September, 1920.

In an opinion furnished to the Mayor of Philadelphia by City Solicitor Smyth regarding at what point in a strike among workmen the police must step in to maintain good order, and protect the right of those who are willing to work, the city's law officer states "that if strikers or pickets indulge in threats or violence or create disorder of any kind the police have a right to interfere."

Retail food prices during September are found by the Labor Department to have declined in all but two of fourteen cities in which it conducts investigations. In the average city retail prices were found on September 15 to be about 25 per cent less than one year previous, but was still between 33 and 56 per cent above the 1913 level.

Undesirable immigrants may be deported although they have been in this country for a number of years, the Supreme Court of the United States held in refusing to review the case of Salvatore Laura.

Of the distribution of \$4,882,000,000 Federal expenses during 1920, 43 per cent was spent on past wars, 39 per cent on future wars, 5 per cent on civil departments, 2 per cent on public works, and 2 per cent for education, public health and development.

## FOREIGN ITEMS

### GERMANY

Figures on prices of 77 staple commodities compiled by the Frankfurter Zeitung reveal in startling light the prices the Germans are paying for the collapse of German paper currency. The wholesale prices of essential articles have risen within the last four months 44 per cent, and this at a time when price levels abroad are either stationary or sinking.

"The hostile vote of the Berlin members of the Majority Socialist Party to the decision reached by the Goerlitz Congress has forced the executive to approach the Independent Socialists with the object of securing their entry into a government in place of the Siemes Party. The Wirth Government can only maintain stability by securing the entry of the Independents. The Independents lay down the following conditions: (1) State mortgage of industry to help pay reparations. (2) Wide justice reforms and the election of juries. (3) Dismissal of monarchist officials. (4) Nationalization of the coal industry.

"The German representative in Moscow, Professor Wiedenfeld, says (in an interview) that the German Red Cross expedition is on its way to Kazan, and that the first German ship with Red Cross supplies has arrived in Petrograd." He expresses satisfaction with the helpfulness of the Soviet authorities in connection with German relief work."

### ENGLAND

The anniversary of the death of William Morris has just been celebrated in Brixton Jail by the imprisoned Pope Councilors, among whom is George Lambury, who was a personal friend of Morris's. Speeches were made by several of the councilors, and at the end of the meeting they stood in silence as a tribute to Morris's work and memory.

At the Sheffield conference of the Catholic Confederation of England and Wales, on October 24, it was declared that a Roman Catholic could not be a Socialist, and Catholic workers were urged to take only a restricted part in the activities of their trade unions. Mr. C. E. Diamond, of the "Catholic Herald," denies this, saying he belongs to the Labor Party and has been a Labor candidate, and will continue in this course until prevented by some competent Catholic authority, preferably the Holy See. The above resolution, he says, was passed by irresponsible individuals.

The Building Guild has reached another stage in its career.

It has already found its feet; work in all parts of the country has been coming to it until it can no longer respond to all demands.

Now it is preparing to reorganize its regional councils, to extend its capacities and to begin "a systematic canvass for every possible job."

Recently it has undertaken to build seventy-eight houses for Walstead Corporation, and to provide the necessary building for five sets of small holdings in Glamorgan, where already it has done big work.

Private contracts for all kinds of houses, odd jobbing, repair work, and decorating have been keeping it busy everywhere.

At Glasgow, where it has tendered for the £200,000 housing scheme, the Guild already has £40,000 worth of other work in hand.

The Doncaster Labor Party has acquired a cafe in the heart of the town for headquarters.

The capital for the enterprise is being raised by means of shares of 5s. each issued only to members and sympathizers.

Facing the most serious demonstration of the unemployed London has ever seen, the Cabinet turned from other vital problems of the nation to discuss the unemployment situation.

The British Labor Party definitely declined to co-operate with the government in an effort to settle the serious unemployment problem. The labor leaders assume the position that they pointed out to the government two years ago the unemployment danger that lay ahead, that the government took little heed, and now the situation has become a menace, they decline to pull the government's chestnuts out of the fire.

### FRANCE

"At Saint Quentin, a large industrial suburb of Paris, workers at the Petit Watard Munition factory, to the number of 400, are on strike in protest against the manufacture of war material, suspected to be destined for Poland and Rumania, and to be intended for use against Soviet Russia."

### AUSTRIA

The British delegate, Hornby, delivered an address to the World Congress of Ex-Servicemen at Vienna, Austria. He told how, when France sought the aid of British troops to administer the military sanctions against Germany, thousands of British ex-service men said—Never again! It had been this spirit, embodied in organized labor, that had prevented Lloyd George from joining France in fresh military enterprises."

### INDIA

The Working Committee of the National Congress, and the Caliphate of Workers today adopted a resolution advocating a sympathetic strike through India on the day the Prince of Wales arrives in Bombay.

### MEXICO

The law recently passed and promulgated in Vera Cruz, Mexico, permitting workers to share in profits of any industry in the state, has met with many protests and threats; it is made by the capitalists and employers that if any attempt is made to carry it out a general paralysis of industry may result.

## Educational Comment and Notes

### THE ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL FESTIVAL

Friday evening, November 18, is the date.

The opening exercises of the Educational Department will be held on that evening in the auditorium of the Washington Irving High School, Irving Place and 16th Street.

All of our students and members must reserve that night.

Beautiful music and interesting addresses will be on the program. Names of the artists will be announced later.

The auditorium will be filled with thousands of enthusiastic students and members, who understand the tremendous importance and value of education for the success of our International Union and of the Labor Movement.

Admission will be by tickets only. Admission tickets can be obtained free at the office of the Educational Department, 31 Union Square, or at the office of the Local Unions.

### UNITY COURSES

Our Unity Centers are the backbone of the educational activities of the International.

This backbone must be kept firm and strong.

We must maintain the high character of the classes in the Unity Centers.

The Holidays are over.

You must return to the Unity Centers immediately.

There is no reason why every one of our members who needs instruction in the English language should not make it his business to attend the nearest Unity Center.

The students in the Unity Center benefit themselves, their Union, and the Labor Movement.

You must fill the classes in our Unity Centers.

Come back at once.

### EXTENSION DIVISION

The Educational Department is completing the plans for its Extension activities. During the coming year, our Extension classes should be the most important and the largest part of our activities.

Thousands upon thousands of our members cannot attend Unity Centers or the Workers' University.

We want to reach them.

We are going to reach them by opening worthy classes in the offices of their Local Unions, at convenient hours.

The teachers will teach in Yiddish or Italian, according to the needs of the classes.

The subjects will be those in which every worker must be vitally interested. They will be the History of Trade Unionism, Policies of Labor Unions, the Problems of our own International Union, and many others which our members will select.

A number of groups of different locals have already been formed and have arranged for dates and teachers.

We want to reach more. It is the duty of all serious workers to organize such groups and to communicate with the Educational Department at once, stating in what they are interested. We shall endeavor to meet their needs.

With the Unity Centers, our Workers' University and many Extension classes, the educational activities of the International Union will undoubtedly accomplish important results for the advantage of our members, our Union and the Labor Movement.

### ADMISSION TO THE WORKERS' UNIVERSITY

The sessions of the Workers' University will be open on Nov. 24, 1921. Cards of admission will be required from all students. These cards can be obtained now at the office of the Educational Department, 31 Union Square, Room 1902.

By registering immediately and applying for these cards of admission, our members will do the following:

(1) They will enable us to plan our work in accordance with the number of students. If a sufficient number of students register now, we can organize additional classes or make such additions to our curriculum as will be required.

(2) They will save themselves a great deal of time. Last year many students had to wait for their cards and could not enter the classroom, thereby losing the benefit of the instruction for that day.

(3) They can obtain advice as to the choice of classes and can obtain lists of books to read.

These books can be procured for them by the Educational Department at reduced prices.

REGISTER FOR THE WORKERS' UNIVERSITY AT ONCE.

### Good Music and Speeches Part of Program to Celebrate the Opening of Workers' University

It was already announced in these columns that the opening celebration of the Workers' University and of the activities of our Educational Department will take place Friday evening, Nov. 18, in the auditorium of the Washington Irving High School, Irving Place and 16th Street.

Our members take a great interest in this festival and many of them come to the office of the Educational Department for admission tickets.

We want members of every Local Union present at this festival. Since the capacity of the auditorium is limited, we have decided to distribute the tickets to the Local Unions in proportion to their membership.

Admission will be by ticket only. They are free and can be obtained at the offices of the Local Unions and at the Educational Department, 31 Union Square, Room 1902.

## A Letter From Sacco and Vanzetti

Dedham Jail,

September 20th, 1921.

We have been wrongly convicted of an atrocious murder committed by persons other than ourselves. The crime was one entirely independent of the struggle of the workers to better their condition.

We are not afraid to die. Every worker in the performance of his tasks as an industrial craftsman faces death a thousand times. Death—we do not fear. We do revolt against having our heart-beats stopped for a crime that we did not commit, indeed, for a crime that possesses no industrial or social significance.

From the earliest years of our young manhood up to the time of our arrest, we gave unsparringly of our time, our labor and the money we earned by hard labor to the education of the workers, preparatory to the day when the workers might emancipate themselves. We are not the type of men who steal and murder. No man who is in a normal mental condition ever commits murder. Crimes of force prove conclusively

## History of the American Labor Movement

By MAX LEVIN

Outlines of lessons given in the Unity Centers of the I. L. G. W. U.

### LESSON XIII.

#### INTERNATIONAL LADIES' GARMENT WORKERS' UNION (Continued).

##### V. Organization

- The basic organization of the I. L. G. W. U. is the Local Union.
  - A worker, male or female, employed in the Ladies' Garment Industry may join the local union of his or her trade.
  - Seven or more workers in any town or city employed in Ladies' Garment Industry may organize themselves into a local union and affiliate themselves with I. L. G. W. U.
  - Each local may enact and enforce laws provided they do not conflict with constitution of I. L. G. W. U.
  - The business of the local is conducted by an executive committee and officers, who are elected by the members.
  - The officers of the local generally consist of a president, financial secretary and recording secretary.
  - The functions of the local consist of enforcing rules and regulations concerning wages, hours and conditions of work, regulate apprenticeship. It grants and revokes working cards, conducts local strikes, conducts membership campaigns and is in constant touch with the rank and file.
- Joint Board**

Wherever there are two or more locals of the same branch of industry in the same city there is organized a Joint Board.

  - The Joint Board consists of delegates from the locals affiliated with it.
  - Each local is entitled to the same number of delegates.
  - The functions of the Joint Board are: To attend to complaints of members against employers, to control union shops; to call and conduct strikes; to maintain harmony among the locals affiliated with it.
- General Executive Board**

The affairs of the International organizations are administered by the General Executive Board.

  - G. E. B. consists of the President, Secretary-treasurer and 13 vice-presidents, who are all elected at regular conventions of the International.
  - The functions of G. E. B. are as follows: It supervises and directs the general activities of the organization; it adjusts disputes between employers and employees; calls and conducts general strikes, adjusts differences between locals, joint boards, etc. Has complete charge of the finances of the International; it grants and revokes charters of locals. It has power to interpret the constitution and decide questions involving jurisdiction of affiliated organizations.
- Conventions**

The highest authority and jurisdiction rests with the convention of I. L. G. W. U.

  - Once in two years delegates from various locals, joint boards, etc., meet in convention.
  - The convention adopts and amends the constitution, outlines the general policies of the International, discusses and adopts resolutions with reference to current problems, elects the general officers, etc.

##### XIV. Achievements

The I. L. G. W. U. has succeeded in organizing practically all of the workers in the Ladies' Garment Industry. It is one of the leading unions in America. It is now one of the ranking members of the American Federation of Labor and is considered a progressive organization. Caution! This is not a complete lesson. It is merely a suggestive outline.

shall dominate tomorrow. If we die, we die knowing that members of the advance guard must always die. We ask only—that our death shall not be useless and that you, the workers in the mines of America, who make possible the industrial life of America, shall make more eloquent our death than we were able to make our lives. We do not want to die uselessly. Let our death—if we must die—speak in a world where there will be no master class to still the voices of those who would be free.

Fraternally yours,

Nicola Sacco  
Bartolomeo Vanzetti

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Howat, a Seasoned Fighter

(A Letter to the Editor.)

Editor,  
JUSTICE:

In the last issue of JUSTICE you referred editorially to the brave conduct of Alexander Howat, President of the Kansas Miners, who, rather than recognize the Kansas Anti-Strike Law, went to jail. In commenting upon his refusal even to obey the decision of the recent Miners' Convention to order the striking miners back to work you say:—"It seems to us Alexander Howat is going upon the same road upon which Debs began his brave career. Sooner or later, if he does not deviate from his course Alexander Howat will become not only a loyal trade unionist but a full fledged advocate of a new order, a champion of a new life for the working class of America."

You infer in the above lines that Howat's struggle against the coal barons of Kansas is his first manifestation of progressive labor union activity. As a matter of fact Howat is not a new figure among the radicals. Those of us who have been in the Socialist movement for some years remember Howat as an old time member of the Socialist Party. Howat has been known as a Socialist for at least ten or twelve years. If he had remained a Socialist throughout these years, his action could be easily explained. There was, however, an incident in his Socialist career which makes his present revolutionary attitude, if not inexplicable, at least not so easily understood. The "incident" I have in mind is as follows:

When the United States entered the World War the Socialist Party took a stand against the war which was formulated in the now famous St. Louis resolution. The entire membership with the exception of a few individuals, enthusiastically endorsed the party's position. A small group resigned from the Party and later formed the Social Democratic League, which endorsed America's participation in the war as well as the Allied war aims. Alexander Howat also resigned from the party because of its anti-war position and joined the Social-Democratic group. He was also, I believe, active in the so-called American Alliance for Labor and Democracy which Samuel Gompers organized and used as a pro-war propaganda agency among the trade unionists in this country.

When Creel's Public Information Committee thought it advisable to despatch an American Socialist and Labor delegation to the Allied countries in order to dissuade the workers of those countries, who were then

becoming disillusioned about the democratic purposes of the war, from taking an anti-war stand and opposing their respective governments in the prosecution of the war, Alexander Howat was chosen as one of the delegation which also included John Spargo and other members of this group. The pilgrimage of this delegation to England, France and Italy proved a fiasco and the delegation returned to this country to carry on its pro-war agitation through their organization, which was really a labor annex to Creel's Bureau.

Howat must have believed in the war and in Wilson's glib interpretation of the causes and aims of the war. A Socialist, he was ready to lay aside the principles of the class struggle in which he believed and which he practiced in the coal mine regions, and to enter into a civil peace with employers to aid in the prosecution of the war to a successful conclusion.

The post-war world which was to have been made "safe for democracy" must have given Howat food for thought. When the Kansas Industrial Disputes Act was passed, a law primarily aimed at the coal miners. Howat became its implacable enemy, and announced in behalf of the 12,000 members of his district, that the miners will not recognize the law and will use the power of the economic weapon to defeat it. Howat considered this law, sponsored by Governor Allen at the behest of the coal barons, a death blow to the labor movement if it should be allowed to prevail. A test case was made of the law at the Dean and Reliance mines last spring and the miners have not yet gone back to work, notwithstanding the order of the court to the contrary.

Alexander Howat, president of District 12, which comprises the state of Kansas, was ordered by the Industrial Court to send his men back to work. He has steadfastly refused to obey the order of the court. Howat is guilty of contempt of the court which he refuses to recognize and the struggle is now on between organized labor and organized capital in whose interest the Industrial Court was established and whose instrument it is in the present struggle.

No, Howat is not a newcomer in the radical movement. He left it in 1917, making common cause with those who had real interests in the war. He has now returned to the proletarian firing line and is fighting bravely in the cause of labor. It is interesting to note that of the entire group of ex-Socialists, who still continue their activities began in 1917, Howat is the only one who is serving the workers in the true class struggle spirit. As you say in your editorial, his present defiance of the reactionary powers in Kansas should be an inspiration to the workers of the whole country.

ALEXANDER TRACHTENBERG  
New York, October 15, 1921.



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Your boy's future well being and position in life may depend upon the attention you pay to his eyes now.

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ATTENTION!

Dress and Waist Makers' Union

The Joint Board of the Dress and Waist Makers' Union, taking into consideration the present depression in our industry and the general unemployment in the shops, has decided that this year our members should not be permitted to work on Saturday afternoons or Sundays as a means of making up for the Jewish holidays.

However, we will be glad to assist all shops that are very busy and need additional help by supplying them with as many workers as may be required.

Any violation of this decision should be reported to the offices of the Joint Board, Dress and Waist Makers' Union.

Joint Board Dress and Waist Makers' Union,  
16 West 21st Street,

J. Halpern, Gen. Manager.  
M. K. Mackoff, Gen. Secretary.



A Down-and-Out Listening to a Speech in Congress

# The Weeks News in Cutters Union Local 10

By ISRAEL LEWIN

## GENERAL

As usual, the ending of the year carries with it preparations by the Joint Boards in the Dress and Cloak Industries and by various local unions for the extension of agreements. In so far as this generally affects the entire membership, it is necessary to point out the importance of the attendance at meetings by the members, when the managers of the various divisions will report on the progress of the organization. Special meetings will also be called of Association shops, where the managers will discuss with the men questions that affect directly the individual shops.

A special meeting of all of the branches will be held on Monday, October 24th, at Arlington Hall, 23 St. Mark's Place, where amendments to the Constitution not yet disposed of, as well as other matters referred to the Constitution Committee at the last special meeting, will be taken up for final disposition. It is absolutely necessary for the members to attend this meeting as the committee desires very much to have the Constitution in workable shape for the following year. Following this meeting, a general meeting will be held on Monday, October 31st, where questions affecting the local will be taken up for discussion and disposition.

## WAIST AND DRESS

The meeting of the Waist and Dress Branch, held on Monday, October 17th, at Arlington Hall, was not as well attended as expected, due to the Jewish Holidays. However, a sufficient number of members showed up, which enabled the branch to dispose of some important questions as well as actions of the Executive Board.

In the report of the activities of the branch, it was pointed out that conferences were being held with the Waist Association on certain changes in the systems of work. The Association had called for these conferences. While no questions affecting cutters were taken up, still the sessions held with the waist employers are significant of the general trend in our trade. As yet there is no hint of any conferences with the Dress Association. Nevertheless, due to the depressed conditions in the trade, the union feels that it is important for it to place itself on a basis of watchful waiting. The office feels that the matter is one of greater watchfulness rather than waiting.

In spite of the dullness in the trade, a great many complaints are filed, since during the periods of dullness the employers always seek to deprive the workers of many of the things to which they are entitled under the agreement. All that can be said at the present is that the members should report all violations to the office and to keep in touch with it through contact and through the attendance of meetings. Members will be enabled in this manner to

know what is taking place and will receive advice as to what action to take.

## CLOAK AND SUIT

The situation in the Cloak and Suit Industry is now reaching the boiling point. The manufacturers entered into with the Protective Association has two more weeks to run, after which it will expire. This, it should be understood, will bring the situation to where it was in June, when relations were resumed with the Association.

At the meeting of the Cloakmakers' Joint Board, held on Saturday, October 15, this matter was discussed. President Schlesinger discussed the situation with the delegates, calling attention to the importance of having the executive boards of the locals comprising the Joint Board hold a general meeting, where the situation should be thoroughly gone over and where plans of action could be made. President Schlesinger also pointed to the present crisis in the country which naturally has a direct bearing on the conditions in the cloak trade. He also felt that without a doubt the Protective Association would again come with the same demands that it presented to the Joint Board at the time the break was taken up. These demands are, in a word, the lowering of standards of work that existed and still exist.

Acting upon the advice of the International President, the Joint Board will issue a call to all the locals for the purpose of holding a general executive board meeting in order that the entire matter may be gone over thoroughly.

In view of all that is taking place at the present time, Sam Perlmutter, Manager of the Cloak Division, is arranging to call shop meetings of all the Protective shops, where he will take the situation up with the men; describe all that is taking place, and the men will be advised as to what is expected of them. The office is at the present time compiling a report tending to show the wages obtaining in the trade, employment and the number of complaints as well as their nature.

## MISCELLANEOUS

In accordance with the decision of the executive board and with the notice posted in these columns, members of this branch held their regular meeting in conjunction with the dress and waist cutters. Supervisor Israel Lewin rendered a report of the activities of the branch, in which he pointed out that due to the lack of work there is little activity of any sort in the miscellaneous trades. Towards the end of the meeting, Brother Greenberg, Manager of the Children's Dressmakers' Union, Local No. 56, requested the membership to authorize the executive board to call a special meeting of the members in this branch where he will talk over with them an important matter. No

doubt the meeting will treat with the request of Locals 41 and 56 which comprise the locals in the miscellaneous trades for the creation of a joint board similar to those which exist in the dress and cloak industries. This matter had been before the executive board, and was not acted upon favorably. The matter, therefore,

will be up before the membership and it is hoped that the members will make a good showing in point of numbers as the taking up of such an important matter warrants. The meeting has not yet been definitely arranged. This question will be taken up by the Executive Board which will set the date.

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## CUTTERS' UNION LOCAL 10 ATTENTION!

### NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETINGS

Nominations for Branch and General Officers for our Local for the coming term will be held during the month of November

GENERAL and SPECIAL: - Monday, October 24th

### Final Adoption of Amendments to Constitution

GENERAL: - - - - Monday, October 31st  
CLOAK AND SUIT: - - - Monday, November 7th  
WAIST AND DRESS: - - - Monday, November 14th  
MISCELLANEOUS: - - - Monday, November 21st

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